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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Reagan, the man who changed the world - Milliyet
The world won't forget Reagan - Turkiye
Bush lands in Normandy - Sabah
D-Day commemoration unites Europe - Milliyet
Bush, Chirac agree on peace for Iraq - Sabah 6/6
Karamanlis: Turkish culture will enrich EU - Milliyet
Joschka Fischer: Turkey the locomotive of modern Islam -
Hurriyet 6/6
Barghouti receives five life sentences - Sabah
Israeli cabinet approves disengagement plan - Aksam
Iraqi resisters hunt for collaborators - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Reagan, the exemplary leader of the American right, dies -
Cumhuriyet
The actor who ended the Cold War exits the stage - Zaman
US mourns for the 'Cowboy' - Radikal
Chirac thanks US, gives message of cooperation - Zaman 6/6
Bush challenges terrorism in Rome - Aksam 6/6
Thousands protest Bush in France - Cumhuriyet
Bush coming to Ankara with package of demands - Cumhuriyet
6/6
US blocks opening of new Turkish border gate with Iraq -
Cumhuriyet
Verheugen: A Turkish troop withdrawal from Cyprus will
please all - Radikal 6/6
G-8 Georgia Summit to reshape Middle East - Cumhuriyet
After Tenet, dark clouds over CIA - Radikal 6/6
Israeli minister sacked by Sharon goes missing - Referans
6/6
Richard Gere exhibits photos in Ramallah - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Washington blocks new Turkish border gate with Iraq: The US has not responded to Turkey's long-standing request to open a new border crossing into Iraq, Monday's "Cumhuriyet" writes. The Turkish General Staff (TGS) and Turkish government have long been working on the project in an effort to end diesel smuggling and to deprive the KDP of transit fees that amount to \$350 million annually. The new crossing would be a 50 km route from Turkey's Ovakoy to Mosul. The US has not responded to the application made by Turkey two months ago due to the close relationship the US has with Kurdish peshmerge, "Cumhuriyet" claims.

Turkish, US 'standoff' in northern Iraq: The TGS on Saturday denied press reports claiming that US troops had been detained by Turkish soldiers on the Turkish side of the border with Iraq. The report, which appeared on Saturday in the newly-established "Referans" newspaper, claimed that the US troops had been hooded during their detention in revenge for the incident involving Turkish special forces in Suleymaniye on July 4, 2003. The TGS statement said that on May 19, a team of US troops and Iraqi border guards approached a Turkish military team stationed near the border but inside Iraqi territory. The Americans talked with the Turks for a while, then left the area. Press reports claiming that American troops had been detained by the Turks are false, TGS announced.

Turkey, Egypt at odds over OIC post: Egypt has rejected Turkey's request to support the bid of the Turkish candidate for the post of Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) because of a disagreement with Ankara over the Greater Middle East initiative. Egyptian FM Ahmad Maher said last week that Egypt recognized only the Greek Cypriot state as the legitimate representative of Cyprus. FM Gul went to Cairo on Sunday to resolve the disagreement. The OIC had been expected to upgrade the Turkish Cypriot representation within the organization to the 'State of Turkish Cyprus' without granting official recognition to the northern Cypriot enclave.

GME 'institutionalizes': In the most recent draft of the Greater Middle East (GME) initiative, the US has proposed a 'Forum for the Future,' a consultative structure to include regional foreign ministers which will work as a permanent forum for open dialogue. According to the draft, the GME will be renamed as the 'Broader Middle East and North Africa.' Ankara will join the forum only if it invited as a 'democratic partner,' "Cumhuriyet" claims. G-8 members will cooperate with GME countries under a proposed 'Partnership for the Future and Progress' in an effort to 'redesign' the region.

US wants to deploy F-16s in Incirlik AB: Weekend papers cite a New York Times report in claiming that the Pentagon wants to deploy 72 US F-16s currently in Spangdahlem, Germany to Incirlik Airbase. Foreign Minister Gul said the US has not made any such request. According to the NYT, Secretary Powell and General Myers believe it is unlikely

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the Turks would allow unrestricted US military operations from Incirlik. President Bush will discuss the issue in Ankara during his upcoming visit in late June, papers speculate. In his meeting with PM Erdogan, President Bush is expected to press for acceptance of the US demands, Sunday's "Cumhuriyet" claims, and to encourage the Prime Minister to ensure that the demands are not put to the Turkish Parliament for a vote.

State broadcasts in minority languages: Turkey's state broadcaster TRT will begin regular programs in minority languages on Monday in a reform long demanded by the EU. The first program of news and sports is to broadcast in Bosnian, with broadcasts in Arabic, Kurdish, Circassian and Zaza to follow later in the week. Each broadcast, which will include both news and cultural reporting, will last 30 minutes.

Turkey cancels Aegean exercise: Turkey will cancel its regular 'Sea Wolf' exercise in the Aegean Sea in a goodwill gesture to Greece. Greece is expected to respond by canceling the 'Nikiforos' exercise held in cooperation with the Greek Cypriots, weekend papers report.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Reagan Dies; Iraq/Mideast

"Reagan was a revolutionary"

Erdal Safak wrote in the mass appeal Sabah (6/7): "Ronald Reagan's electoral victory in 1980 was not an unexpected success. When he lost to Gerald Ford in the 1976 Republican primary campaign, Reagan launched an ideological campaign for the next four years. Thus the 1980 election victory came as no surprise. It also led to an ideological revolution in US politics. When Reagan took charge, he found a symmetrical world with two competing superpowers. When he left office eight years later, an asymmetrical, unipolar world had been established. Reagan's team contributed a great deal to his election victory, but also helped to end the cold war. Today, we call them 'neo-cons.' But now the neo-cons are in despair as they try to find a way out of Iraq, a problem created by the asymmetrical nature of world politics today."

"Bush dreams of being Reagan"

Ali Aslan wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (6/7): "When President Bush declared his mission for the democratization of the Islamic world in November 2003, he was drawing a significant parallel between his vision and that of former President Reagan with regard to the Soviet Union. Similar to Reagan's mission to democratize the communist world, President Bush is determined to bring democracy to the Islamic geography regardless of the potential consequences. There is, however, one major difference between his time and the Reagan era. Western Europe acted together with the Reagan administration to fight against communism. At this point, Western Europe has differences on how to fight against the fanatical terrorism emanating from the region. The goals are the same, yet the

methods for addressing the problems are different. . The G-8 summit and the NATO summit will be very important venues what could help to shape the future of transatlantic cooperation. It will take a long time to see whether President Bush will be proven right in his policy choices as Reagan was in his."

"Turkey, the US and the Middle East"

Coskun Kirca commented in the mass appeal Aksam (6/7):
"There is a belief among the majority of Americans that democracy is the best regime for every country in the world. In a democratic system, the opposition allows the government to rule the country and continues its activities peacefully with the aim of taking power in the future. The Iraqi people do not have such an understanding. Moreover, this American belief has another unrealistic corollary - the idea that every democracy is in favor of peace. There are many examples in history that show that democratic regimes have not brought peace to their countries. We see such examples even in 21st-century Europe, particularly in the Balkans. That being the case, how can Iraq establish a democratic regime with its primitive cultural level? It is not possible for Iraq to become a democracy in the near future. If the US withdraws from Iraq without leaving a military force there to establish and maintain security, a real chaos could erupt that would lead the country into a new Somalia. The US should stop focusing its efforts on democracy and find an international solution to the Iraq issue by seeking the support of other countries in the region."

EDELMAN